



# Indiana Department of Revenue

# News Release

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## **RISE IN ILLEGAL CHARITY GAMING EVENTS PROVES COSTLY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Indiana Department of Revenue reports that it has seen an increase in the number of unlicensed charity gaming events in the past two weeks. In many cases, the organizations cited in Logansport, South Bend, Terre Haute, Bedford, Gary and Kokomo have not even been qualified to conduct such activities.

An organization conducting charity gaming events in Indiana must be registered with the Department (and the IRS) as a not-for-profit organization; it must also go through a qualification process with the Department to ensure that it meets certain state legislated mandates for the conducting of charity gaming activities.

"Whether it is a raffle or a bingo game," said State Revenue Commissioner Kenneth L. Miller, "a license is required. Regardless of whether the cause is noble or the act charitable, if a license doesn't exist, then the activity is regarded as illegal gaming."

Once qualified by the Indiana Department of Revenue, an organization needs to apply for a license for each gaming activity it sponsors if the value of prizes awarded exceeds \$1,000 for one event or \$3,000 total for the year. Those organizations whose prizes are under those limits must still register their gaming events with the Department and follow other pertinent laws and regulations.

In addition, other restrictions apply. For instance, only members of the sponsoring organization may participate in conducting the gaming event, and no one can receive payment of any kind for his or her services. The Indiana Department of Revenue's *Publication 2* outlines the rules and regulations governing charity gaming in Indiana. A copy may be obtained from the Department's web site at [www.in.gov/dor/publications/charity/pdfs/Publication2.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dor/publications/charity/pdfs/Publication2.pdf).

Legal charity gaming activities include: bingo; raffles; door prize drawings; the selling of pull tabs, punchboards, and tip boards; charity game nights such as "Casino Nights" and "Las Vegas Nights"; and card, dice, wheel and spindle games.

For more information, contact the Department's Charity Gaming Section at (317) 232-4646.

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